

started with a problematic overhang but soon eased, allowing us to enjoy the afternoon sun on the summit. (III, 5.9.)

DAVID HARDEN

The Obelisk, Northwest Corner. Don Palmer, Jack Bedell and I climbed a new route on the Obelisk's northwest corner on June 19. Starting near the left edge of the west face, we ascended 3½ pitches of easy, delightful face-climbing to gain a notch behind a small tower. From there, a spectacular hand crack shoots up and left across a white wall on the north face. Steep face-climbing on wildly eroded knobs alongside the crack provided excitement as some of the holds had a tendency to break. At the top of the crack, we traversed a few feet right and followed a steep prow to easier ground and the top. (III, 5.8.)

DAVID HARDEN

Obelisk, West Face. The west face of the Obelisk is a spectacular, orange-colored, knobby wall. On the right side of this face is the only major weakness, a continuous chimney system, which is probably Beckey's original route. About 40 feet left is another, more intimidating crack system. The route done by Richard Swayze, Mike Jauregui and me on September 2 begins on a narrow ledge at the base of this crack and 50 feet of scrambling above the talus. A fine pitch with one 5.8 move leads to a belay alcove in the chimney. We stepped right and climbed a full rope-length of the best 5.8 face-climbing any of us had ever done in the High Sierra. Three more pitches on big knobs led to the summit. (II, 5.8).

BART O'BRIEN

Angel Peak. In January, Paul Fehlau and I attempted a new route on the unclimbed south face of Angel Peak. The rock was softer than any I had played on in the desert. I knocked so much loose material on Paul that we abandoned the attempt. We then did the regular route, which I recount here. This climb (II, 5.7) lies on the north side of the peak. It starts up one pitch between the west peak and the main summit. Then a traverse is made left for 40 feet before going left up a rotten dihedral. We then traversed back right, across a catwalk hewn into the soft stone. A short steep section leads to the summit. It is not known who made the first ascent. There are rappel anchors on the summit.

CAMERON BURNS, *Los Alamos Climbing Club*

Starlight Peak, West Buttress. From the Palisade Basin, one can see immediately left (north) of the prominent west-facing wall on the North Palisade a large triangular buttress. The top of the buttress joins a narrow ridge which leads to the summit of Starlight Peak. In early July, Cameron Burns and I started up

the center of the buttress and climbed three pitches ranging from 5.9 to 5.10c. The crux was a severely overhanging crack that gained a ledge leading north to a gully. We were so intimidated by this route that we backed off and decided to try our luck the next day. The following day, after regaining our high point via the gully, we encountered an extremely loose and overhanging quartz dihedral which led to the top of the buttress. We then followed the ridge with much 5.7 and 5.8 climbing. After a combined total of 16 pitches, we reached the summit pinnacle. (IV, 5.10c.)

STEPHEN PORCELLA

California—Yosemite

El Capitan, Reach for the Sky, 1989. This route, done in the fall of 1989, starts several hundred yards left of the West Face route and above the huge chockstones in the gully. I spent eight days and four nights on the wall on this eight-bolt solo effort. The route is 90% free and wanders up to the extreme right end of Salami Ledge and then follows that route to the rim. With long runouts, 5.8 to 5.10 face climbing is linked with hooking or the odd crack. The two hardest “free” pitches were first led on aid, worked on for hours and then “freed” on a top rope.

JAMES BEYER

El Capitan, Genesis, 1989. In May 1989, Doug Englekirk and I climbed a new route on El Capitan (*Genesis*, VI, 5.11b, A4+). It lies between Tribal Rite and the Wall of Early Morning Light or New Dawn. We began on Armageddon (5.10d) and via some new moves of 5.11 joined the right side of El Cap Towers (New Dawn). *Genesis* started off of El Cap Towers. I led the first two pitches during two attempts, the first in September 1988. Pitch 1 started off the Porter bolt ladder of New Dawn and was a mixture of vertical and overhanging hooks, copperheads and rivets. Pitch 2 went out left under a small roof (A3) to six rivets and then joined a 30-foot section of drilled hooks left by Dale Bard during the filming of *Star Trek V*. Doug then led the very serious “Blade” pitch, a thin expanding flake (A4) with a bad landing. The climb took a total of 14 days of which three were spent storm-bound in a portaledge bivouac. During day 3 of the storm, I started to lead the next pitch, which was our only rivet ladder (130 feet). While trying to squeeze in the last placement, I took a 25-foot upside-down fall. By the time I got back on the lead, a cold rain was falling that lasted for several hours until I regained my ledge. This was the “Great Flood” pitch (A2). The next pitch had Doug leading off the belay on Bird Beaks, one of the more obscure but useful pieces of equipment used for hard direct aid. Doug finished Pitch 5 with an interesting variety of techniques (A3+). The next pitch was a mixture of difficult free climbing (5.11) and aid. Pitch 6 would have been moderate free climbing, but more rain left the steep slab slippery and so it went at A3 with hooks, heads and rivets. Pitch 7 had Doug traversing off the belay on 5.11